

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE
GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY RULES,
CHAPTER 20-9, OFFICES
RULE 20-9-.01 REGISTRATION
AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the authority set forth below, the Georgia State Board of Accountancy proposes rule changes to the Georgia State Board of Accountancy rules, Chapter 20-9, Offices (hereinafter "proposed rule adoption"). The Board voted to post this notice of adoption and hearing at a meeting on December 19, 2007.

The proposed rule amendments will establish a late renewal period for public accountancy firms and amend the title to reflect the contents of the rule.

This notice, together with an exact copy of the proposed rule and a synopsis of the proposed rule, is being mailed to all persons who have requested, in writing, that they be placed on a mailing list. A copy of this notice, an exact copy of the proposed rule, and a synopsis of the proposed rule may be reviewed during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, except official State holidays, at the Office of the Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217. These documents will also be available for review on the Board's web page at <http://www.sos.state.ga.us/plb/accountancy>. Copies may also be requested by contacting the Board's office at 478-207-2440.

A public hearing will be held at 9:35 a.m. on January 30, 2008 at the office of the Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia to provide the public an opportunity to comment upon and provide input into the proposed rule. At the public hearing anyone may present data, make a statement, comment or offer a viewpoint or argument whether orally or in writing. Lengthy statements or statements of a considerable technical or economic nature, as well as previously recorded messages, must be submitted for the official record. Oral statements should be concise and will be limited to 5 minutes per person. Additional comments should be presented in writing. Written comments are welcome. Such written comments must be legible and signed, should contain contact information for the maker (address, telephone number and/or facsimile number, etc.) and be actually received in the office prior to the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on January 23, 2008. Written comments should be addressed to Randall D. Vaughn, Division Director, Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, Georgia State Board of Accountancy, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217. FAX: 478-207-1410.

The proposed rule will be considered for adoption by the Georgia State Board of Accountancy at its meeting on January 30, 2008 scheduled to begin at 9:40 a.m. at the office of the Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon,

Georgia. The Accountancy Board has the authority to adopt the proposed rule amendments to Rule 20-9-.01 pursuant to authority contained in O.C.G.A. §§ 43-3-5 and 43-3-21.

The Board will consider at its meeting on January 30, 2008, whether the formulation and adoption of this proposed rule amendment imposes excessive regulatory costs on any licensee or entity and whether any cost to comply with the proposed rule amendment could be reduced by a less expensive alternative that fully accomplishes the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-3-5 and 43-3-21.

Additionally, at its meeting on January 30, 2008 the Board will consider whether it is legal or feasible in meeting the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-3-5 and 43-3-21 to adopt or implement differing actions for businesses as listed at O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4(a) (3) (A), (B), (C) and (D). The Board will consider whether the formulation and adoption of this proposed rule amendment will impact every licensee in the same manner when small businesses are independently owned and operated and not dominant in their respective fields of licensure.

For further information, contact the Board office at 478-207-2440.

This notice is given in compliance with O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4.

This 19th day of December 2008.

Randall D. Vaughn
Division Director
Professional Licensing Boards

Posted: December 20, 2007

SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF
ACCOUNTANCY RULES FOR OFFICES CHAPTER 20-9, RULE 20-9-.01

Rule 20-9-.01 Registration. Amended.

Purpose: Provides for registration of public accounting firm offices.

Main Features: Establishes a late renewal period for public accounting firms and updates title of rule to reflect its content.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE EXISTING RULE AND THE PROPOSED
AMENDMENTS TO THE GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY RULES
FOR OFFICES

[Note: underlined text is proposed to be added; lined-through text is proposed to be deleted.]

20-9-.01 Registration, Late Renewal, and Reinstatement. Amended.

- (1) Each office established or maintained for practice in this State by a certified public accountant, partnership, professional association, or professional corporation of certified public accountants, or by a public accountant, partnership, or professional association of public accountants, or by a foreign accountant, shall register with the Board within sixty days after it is opened.
 - (a) The registration fee for a sole practitioner, for a partnership, or for an association or corporation is \$75.00.
 - (b) The renewal fee for Office Registration of a sole practitioner, a partnership, or an association or corporation is \$75.00.
- (2) Each such office shall be under the supervision of a resident manager, who may be either a partner, principal, shareholder, or a staff employee, holding a live permit.
- (3) A form is prescribed and is obtainable from the Board Office.
- (4) Notice shall be given to the Board within thirty days of any change of address. Notice must be similarly given of the closing of any such offices. No form is provided for such notices but they must be in writing, and, whether in letter form or otherwise they must be clearly headed with "Closing of Office," or similar wording.
- (5) Registration permits will expire on June 30th, of each even numbered year beginning on June 30, 1984, and shall become renewable at least sixty (60) days prior to the expiration date. It is the policy of the Board to mail notices of pending expiration dates to licensees at their last known addresses, but failure to receive such a notice does not relieve the licensee of this obligation to register.
- (6) In order to be eligible for registration renewal, the office must comply with the provisions of the Report Monitoring Program as provided for in O.C.G.A. 43-3-23.1 and Chapter 20-13.

(7) An application for original registration of an office registration, otherwise in order, filed more than 30 days after it is due must be accompanied by a late fee of \$250.00 in addition to the registration fee.

(8) An application for renewal of an office registration, otherwise in order, filed after the June 30th expiration date must be accompanied by a late fee of \$250.00 in addition to the renewal fee. After June 30th, without an active firm registration, it is unlawful to practice public accountancy in this State. The late renewal period begins July 1st and ends September 30th.

(9) An application for reinstatement of an office registration, otherwise in order, filed after September 30th must be accompanied by a reinstatement fee of \$575.00.

O.C.G.A. §§ 43-3-5 and 43-3-21